

---

KENT COUNTY NEWS RELEASE  
ADMINISTRATION



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 25, 2014

**Kent County's Corporate Counsel Daniel Ophoff to Retire**

**GRAND RAPIDS** – After thirty-five years of providing insight and expertise on various legal matters to municipalities, Kent County Corporate Counsel Daniel Ophoff is retiring. His government legal career dates back to 1978 when he started working for the City of Grand Rapids. He served as the Assistant City Attorney for the City of Grand Rapids before being hired as Kent County Corporate Counsel in October 2008. His final day is scheduled for March 31, 2014.

"I hope that one of my biggest achievements was to facilitate collaboration and communication between the City of Grand Rapids and the County," said Mr. Ophoff. "I've seen improvements based on group efforts; so many people have worked to accomplish that." Mr. Ophoff reflected on the staff he has come to know, saying there is a yin and a yang to his retirement. "I will miss the people I've worked with," Mr. Ophoff said. "The connections here are something that causes me pause." Mr. Ophoff plans to invest more time with his three grandsons, who live in West Michigan.

Mr. Ophoff received his undergraduate degree from Calvin College before graduating from Valparaiso University Law School. While working for the City of Grand Rapids, he counseled City departments, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Planning Commission, the Local Board of Review and the Board of Arts and Museum Commissioners. He presented cases before State and Federal courts, as well as the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals.

"Dan has the demeanor of a 'wise sage' and was able to offer the necessary advice in a way that got the point across and in a manner that was well-received by those who sought his advice," said Daryl Delabbio, Kent County Administrator/Controller. "Dan uses a thoughtful, deliberative approach to problem-solving and providing legal analysis. I will miss his wisdom and sense of humor."

As Mr. Ophoff retires, the county has hired Thomas Dempsey as Corporate Counsel. Mr. Dempsey practiced general municipal law with two different firms before working as municipal leadership. He served as Village Manager in Sparta (1996-2002) and City Manager in Portland, MI (2003-2014).

Mr. Dempsey is a member of the Michigan Bar Association, the International City/County Management Association, and the Michigan Local Government Management Association. "Tom has a unique combination of experience in both municipal law and municipal management," Delabbio said. "He is respected in the local government community and brings a wealth of experience to the position." He is a graduate of Loyola University of Chicago Law School.

**(MEDIA NOTE FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY:** An open house to celebrate Mr. Ophoff's retirement is scheduled for March 28, 2014, from 2-4 p.m. at the Kent County Administration Building, Board of Commissioner's Chambers on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Members of the media are welcome to attend.)